

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-20 have been rejected by the Examiner. Claims 2 and 7 have been objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability with respect to claims 2 and 7. Claims 1, 9, and 20 have been amended. Claims 2, 7, 10, and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. These amendments are proper after Final rejection as they are provided for the sole purpose of placing the Application in condition for allowance or in better condition for Appeal. The Applicants submit that claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, and 12-20 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections. No new matter has been entered.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0111339 to Wehrung, et al. (hereinafter "Wehrung").

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features previously recited in what are now cancelled claims 2 and 7. Thus, no new matter has been entered. The Examiner has indicated that neither Wehrung, nor the art as whole, teaches the features recited in claims 2 and 7. For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Independent claim 9 has been amended to include the features recited in what are now cancelled claims 10, 11, and 7. Further, independent claim 20 has been amended substantially similar to the amendments made to claims 1 and 9. For at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1, the Applicants submit that claims 9 and 20 are also in condition for allowance. Claims 3-6, 8, and 12-19 depend from claims 1 and 9, respectively. For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that claims 3-6, 8 and 12-19 are also in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested. It is submitted that the foregoing amendments and remarks should render the case in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, as the cited reference neither anticipates nor renders obvious that which the Applicants deem to be the invention, it is respectfully requested that claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, and 12-20 be passed to issue.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully submitted,
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
Applicants' Attorneys

By: /Marisa J. Dubuc/
Marisa J. Dubuc
Registration No. 46,673
Customer No. 29371

Date: April 7, 2008
Address: 20 Church Street, 22nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06103-3207
Telephone: (860) 286-2929
Fax: (860) 286-0115